

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No.: 10/561,213

Attorney Docket No.: Q92193

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Figures 35A and 35B have been amended to include the legend "Related Art."

Attachment:

1 Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that the references cited with the Information Disclosure Statements filed December 19, 2005 and January 9, 2006 have been considered. However, the Examiner has not returned the initialed forms PTO/SB/08 for the Information Disclosure Statements. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner return the initialed forms in the next Office communication.

Applicant also thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 and receipt of certified copies of the priority documents.

Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to Figures 35A and 35B as allegedly requiring a legend such as "Prior Art." Applicant has amended the figures to include the legend "Related Art." Applicant respectfully requests that this objection be withdrawn.

Objections to the Specification

The Examiner has objected to the Abstract of the Disclosure for various informalities. Applicant has amended the Abstract and respectfully requests that this objection be withdrawn.

Objections to the Claims

Claim 3 has been objected to for various informalities. Applicant has amended claim 3 and respectfully requests that this objection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections

Claim 3 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,510,078 to Schwarzl ("Schwarzl") in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,661,071 to Lenssen *et al.* ("Lenssen"). Applicant traverses this rejection.

The combination of Schwarzl and Lenssen does not disclose or suggest at least a magnetic shielding structure which directs a magnetic field developed by magnetic poles appearing at ends of said first yoke layer in said first direction away from said magnetoresistance element, as recited in claim. In the Examiner concedes that Schwarzl does not disclose or suggest these features, and relies on Lenssen to provide such disclosure. Lenssen, however, does not cure the deficiencies of Schwarzl.

Lenssen is directed to shielding a magnetic memory against high *external* magnetic fields (Abstract). As disclosed by Lenssen, each shielding region 9 is such that a perpendicular projection of *the magnetic shielding region* 5 on the memory elements *comprises one memory element* 3 (column 5, lines 6-8). Hence, the magnetic shielding region disclosed by Lenssen does not shield the memory elements by directing a magnetic field developed by the magnetic poles at the ends of the yoke layers of the memory wiring, i.e., *internal* magnetic fields, as set forth in the claim. Instead, they design and effect of Lenssen's shielding is to protect the memory against external magnetic fields.

Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would not have been motivated to combine the references as attempted by the Examiner, since the references, alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all the claimed features.

Accordingly, claim 3 is patentable over the combination of Schwarzl and Lenssen.

Claim 3 has also been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Schwarzl in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,567,299 to Kunikiyo *et al.* ("Kunikiyo"). Applicant traverses this rejection.

The combination of Schwarzl and Kunikiyo does not disclose or suggest at least a magnetic shielding structure which directs a magnetic field developed by magnetic poles appearing at ends of said first yoke layer in said first direction away from said magnetoresistance element, as recited in claim. In the Examiner concedes that Schwarzl does not disclose or suggest these features, and relies on Kunikiyo to provide such disclosure. Kunikiyo, however, does not cure the deficiencies of Schwarzl.

As disclosed by Kunikiyo, a coil-like inductor ID is provided to surround the MRAM cell MCA1 (column 37, lines 31-32; Fig. 39). An inductor driving circuit capable of carrying bidirectional currents is connected to both ends of the inductor ID, allowing change in direction of the ***magnetic field generated*** in a region surrounded by the inductor ID ***by changing the direction of current flowing in the inductor ID*** (column 37, lines 36-41). When batch erasing or batch writing of data is performed on a plurality of MRAM cells, ***a current of predetermined direction is passed through the inductor ID and the magnetic field generated thereby simultaneously changes directions of the spins of the soft ferromagnetic layer*** (column 37, lines 46-52). In other words, the inductor disclosed by Kunikiyo and cited by the Examiner does not provide magnetic shielding. Rather, Kunikiyo's inductor generates a magnetic field used to write or erase a magnetic memory.

Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would not have been motivated to combine the references as attempted by the Examiner, since the references, alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all the claimed features.

Accordingly, claim 3 is patentable over the combination of Schwarzl and Kunikiyo.

In view of the patentability of claim 3, Applicant respectfully requests rejoinder and allowance of the withdrawn claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 4 and 7 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. As established above, claim 3, from which claims 4 and 7 depend, is patentable. Accordingly, claims 4 and 7 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependence.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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